

LOCAL SUPPORT & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR WILD SKY WILDERNESS

Locally-Elected Official Support: Twenty-three elected officials representing Snohomish County have enthusiastically endorsed the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal (See below). In addition 9 of the 11 members of the Washington State congressional delegation are all original cosponsors of the legislation, including Representatives Brian Baird, Norm Dicks, Jennifer Dunn, Jay Inslee, Rick Larsen, Jim McDermott and Adam Smith and Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

Bob Drewel, Executive, Snohomish County
Dave Gossett, Council Member, Snohomish County Council
Kirke Sievers, Council Member, Snohomish County Council
Kem Hunter, Mayor, Town of Index
Donnetta Walser, Mayor, City of Monroe
Tony Balk, Council Member, City of Monroe
Bruce Hansen, Council Member, City of Monroe
John Hunnicutt, Council Member, City of Monroe
Jeff Frye, Council Member, City of Monroe
Ken Berger, Council Member, City of Monroe
Mark Mechling, Council Member, City of Monroe
Penny Sopris-Kegerries, Council Member, City of Monroe

Steve Higgins, Council Member, City of Gold Bar
Bob Overstreet, Council Member, City of Everett
State Senator Dave Schmidt (District 44)
State Senator Aaron Reardon (District 38)
State Senator Paull Shin (District 21)
State Representative Hans Dunshee (District 44)
State Representative John Lovick (District 44)
State Representative John McCoy (District 38)
State Representative Jean Berkey (District 38)
State Representative Brian Sullivan (District 21)
State Representative Mike Cooper (District 21)

"We recognize and commend the (Washington) Delegation for its collaborative approach and local involvement that contribute to bi-partisan support for this bill...This is a good bill...and if it passes we will be pleased."

--- USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Mark Rey, testifying on the Wild Sky Wilderness Act before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on June 4, 2003.

Business Support: A number of local businesses have shown their support for the proposal by supporting the recent Wild Sky Wilderness Festival held in Index on June 28, 2003 (see list below). In addition, a number of vacation rentals in Index and Baring have endorsed the proposal including *A River Runs Through It*, *The Gray Fox*, *A Stones Throw Bed & Breakfast* and *A Cabin in the Sky*. Other regional and national businesses that operate in western Washington have also shown their support including REI, Patagonia, Orvis Company, Montrail, Canoe and Kayak Magazine, Marmot Mountain Works, Feathered Friends and Cascade Designs, Ex Officio, Nikwax, The Avid Angler, Zumiez, Inc., K2 Snowboarding, Helly Hansen, Outdoor Research, and Wild Roses.

Le Sports Junkies
WaveTrek, Inc.
Werner Paddles.
Golden Egg Ski & Sports

Stevens Pass Snowboard Shop & The
Mountain Co.
1896 Food & Spirits
Chinook Expeditions
Gold Bar Family Grocer

Skykomish Liquor & Deli
Sky River Pub & Eatery
Sultan Pizza & Submarine
Sultan Red Apple Market
Trailhead Café

Public Support: Nearly 800 citizens from the Sky Valley towns of Monroe, Gold Bar, Sultan, Startup, Index and Skykomish have signed a petition supporting designating the Wild Sky as Wilderness. On June 28, nearly 400 Wilderness enthusiasts attended the Wild Sky Wilderness festival in Index, WA. Attendees participated in guided hikes, rafting trips, birdwatching walks, photography workshops and fly fishing tutorials in and around the Wild Sky proposal. Senator Murray and Representative Larsen have received thousands of letters and e-mails on Wild Sky Wilderness over the last two years. In 2001, roughly 100 individuals participated in one of two public meetings focused on the Wild Sky proposal.

"...certain people...say there has been no...local support for the proposal...There is considerable support for the Wild Sky here in Index, and I'd be glad to introduce these guys to some of those supporters."

--- William Cross from a Letter to The Editor published in the *Everett Herald*.

Editorial Support & Education Through Media Outlets: There has been extensive press coverage in local and regional media outlets informing the Snohomish County public about the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal. The *Everett Herald*, *Seattle Times* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* have all

editorialized on a number of occasions in support of the legislation. There have been nearly 150 newspaper articles, editorials, OpEds or letters to the editor on the Wild Sky Issue over the last two years.

Public Meetings and Congressional Hearings: Public meetings have been held in local areas to allow opinion leaders and the general public to learn more about Wild Sky and comment on the proposal. Of particular note was the town hall meeting held in Index, WA, which is just outside the proposed wilderness area. A larger public meeting was also held in the City of Monroe, the largest city in the Skykomish Valley. Congressional hearings have been held on the legislation in both the 107th and 108th Congress.

- **7/16/01** - Index Town Hall Meeting on Wild Sky Wilderness
- **9/6/01** - Public Meeting on Wild Sky organized by Larsen and Murray (Monroe)
- **9/10/01** - Public Meeting on Wild Sky organized by Larsen and Murray (Seattle)
- **7/30/02** - U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 2565)
- **9/12/02** - U.S. House Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (H.R. 4844)
- **10/8/02** - U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 2565)
- **3/05/03** - Monroe City Council Public Meeting on Wild Sky
- **6/4/03** - U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 391)
- **7/23/03** - U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 391)

Congressional Outreach: A variety of efforts have been made by Senator Murray's and Representative Larsen's offices to reach out and meet with local stakeholders on the Wild Sky proposal. Both have been praised for their remarkable and tireless efforts to make the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal an inclusive one. Their staffs have had stakeholder meetings with the Washington State Snowmobile Association, Seaplane Pilots Association, Longview Fiber, the Backcountry Horsemen Association of Washington, Snohomish County Farm Bureau, Snohomish County Emergency Radio and Snohomish County Public Works.

- **07/02/01** - Senator Murray and Representative Larsen set up a tour of the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness to show local officials various aspects of the proposal. They were joined by Snohomish Council Member Dave Somers, mayors of the towns of Index and Skykomish and members of the Index City Council.
- **12/05/01** - Senator Murray's and Representative Larsen's offices held a series of one-hour meetings in Everett with all constituents/interest groups and local stakeholders that had contacted Murray and Larsen's office. Stakeholders were identified by the Forest Service or contacted Congressional offices directly.
- **05/21/02** - Both legislators' offices briefed Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel and the Tulalip Tribes on proposal.
- **05/29/02** - Senator Murray and Representative Larsen held a press conference in Everett on the introduction of the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2002.
- **10/22/02** - Congressman Larsen's office was scheduled to brief the Snohomish County Council on the Wild Sky Wilderness bill. The County Council canceled the meeting that morning and has yet to reschedule.
- **02/25/03** - Both legislators' offices conducted a 1 ½ hour meeting on the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal with Snohomish County Farm Bureau.
- **05/27/03** - Congressman Larsen's office met with the WA State Farm Bureau and Snohomish County Farm Bureau.
- **Repeated** - Meetings w/ WA State Snowmobile Association, Seaplane Pilots Association, Longview Fiber, Cascade Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen, Snohomish County Emergency Radio and Snohomish County Public Works.
- **Ongoing** - Meetings and communication with constituents.

"The bill has always had bi-partisan support and a great amount of work has been done to consider group and citizen input. Nothing should stop our elected officials from moving forward and making it official once and for all."

--- June 9, 2003 - *Everett Herald* editorial on the Wild Sky Wilderness Act